

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

tombs any more absurd than refusing to sit thirteen at table ? They were totally unaware of the profound side of native culture. Hue was only a mass of broken-down buildings: its emperor just a backward school-boy. There was a more aggressive turn to this non-appreciation of Anamite civilization. Many of these soldiers earned for themselves the name of colonial apaches by their cruel violence towards native coolies and shopkeepers. Their attacks were not confined to the natives and for a time they practised profitable holdups on Europeans as well¹. Frequency of contacts and the will to understand are the indispensable preliminaries to a study of any foreign culture. Most colonials are not brutes or Machiavellian schemers trying systematically to oppress the native population. For them the native problem does *not exist*, because they think of them only in terms of labour. The most liberal theorists are often the last men willing to expatriate themselves to apply their ideas. This also applies to functionaries who, though they do not accumulate **fortunes** so rapidly, are nevertheless attracted to the colonies by the larger salaries offered there. The perennial charm which office-holding has for the French is shown by the great number of applicants for even the **most** humble positions in the colony. The desire for such a form of **security** has been even more pronounced since the depression*. The lower ranks of officialdom are notoriously more hostile to a liberal native **policy** than the upper—undoubtedly because of their greater fear of native competition. The *bloc* of anti-liberal opinion, made up of the vast majority of functionaries and colonists, is almost impossible to overcome. The majority of the French residents in **Indo-China** are transients in the

colony who, having
 assured **positions, naturally** favour a policy of
 domination. They must
 refuse to see **virtues** in the Anaamite civilisation 'and
 intelligentsia, *m*
 the price of their continued survival in the colony.
 Their hostile obsti-
 is a grater **straoblmg-block** than either indifference
 or laziness
 to **loutnal** tmder^tendifig.
 group of fear-ridden conservatives are the
 Frenchwomen
 come to the colony, Oftea the *amgoM^* "die sleeping
 dic-
 tionary/* an exeeffleat **medium** for learning die
 native people and
 their **and her** gradual elimination has been
 hannfal to better
iataHcacaal **The** desire felt by Fi^oichwomen
 to under-
 mine a **rival** influence to find compensation for
exile by creating a
 Fjrtssce **hat** reduced the contacts between **the** races.
 Before they
 a **in0re primitive** **life*** and the hck of
 diversions
1909X p- 60.